

NARRATOR: Charles “Hawk” Blanton

INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves

DATE: October 21, 1999

LOCATION: Boise, Idaho

PROJECT: Smokejumpers

Tape Counter	Manu. Page	Summary
000		Introduction by Interviewer
008		Charles Blanton gives his background, his birth in American Falls, moving to Nampa, Naval career and his time at the University of Idaho.
045		Blanton reiterates his introduction and application to the Smokejumpers program. He also discusses the application process and his fire fighting background.
070		Blanton discusses smokejumper training at McCall, including the various preparatory exercises.
125		Blanton describes the McCall Camp, the various buildings and what they contained. He also brief describes how parachutes are packed in the loft.
198		He discusses who packed the ‘chutes and his “trust” that the parachute would open.
250		He describes the procedure for “stepping off a plane” and his first time jumping out of a C47.
292		He describes his first jump and how he was kicked out of the plane.
320		Blanton discusses his feelings toward the jumps and other jumpers becoming ill before and during the jumps.
356		He talks about his role in documentaries for Film Originals including his role in <i>The Telephone Creek Fire</i> and <i>The Lost Hunter</i> . He also discusses the “ribs” he takes from other smokejumpers because of his film career.
497		END OF SIDE ONE
500		Blanton continues to discuss his work with Film Originals, his pay, and <i>The Lost Hunter</i> in French.

- 517 He describes the order in which they went out on fires, the jump list, the call, and gathering your supplies together, etc.... He also describes locating, spotting and jumping on the fire.
- 596 Blanton describes a situation in which the spotter made a poor judgement call that resulted in him getting hung up in a tree and spending an unnecessary night in the woods.
- 666 He describes his role in the Hells Canyon fires.
- 680 He talks briefly about the number of jumps and the years and the people with whom he jumped. (28 fire jumps, 44 total jumps)
- 700 Blanton discusses his last jump into Payette Lake, twenty-five years after being in the smokejumpers.
- 776 He describes the procedure for fighting fire after being on the ground, creating a fire line, fighting the fire, and mop up.
- 838 He talks about jumping on a large difficult fire at French Creek including another jumper "walking" on his "chute."
- 884 He discusses "getting out" after fighting a fire, hiking or being packed out. Also, he tells a story of crossing the Salmon River with pack mules.
- 995 **END OF TAPE ONE**

TAPE TWO

- 000 Blanton continues telling his story about crossing the Salmon River and other stories of being packed out.
- 026 He talks about how they were transported back to McCall after "getting out." Includes information on flying in and out of the backcountry.
- 059 He discusses the procedures after he arrived back to camp after being out on a fire. He also describes being on spike camps and various projects he was involved in either early season or if his name was on the bottom of the jump list.

- 091 He discusses the jump list, the number of jumpers in McCall and Idaho City and the time between jumps.
- 108 He discusses nicknames, both his own and those given to other jumpers.
- 186 Blanton discusses his activities in the smokejumpers' coffee meetings, who has shown up at these meetings, and other meetings between ex-smokejumpers.
- 265 He talks about his most memorable jumps including his first jump and various others.
- 269 He discusses the jumpers' relationship with the pilots, mainly Bob Fogg. He also talks about his own pilot training.
- 380 He describes McCall in the late 1940s, early 1950s. He also talks about the favorite hangouts for the jumpers in McCall.
- 434 He talks about other activities of the smokejumpers including baseball, volleyball, as well as activities on Payette Lake.
- 476 **END OF SIDE ONE
TAPE TWO**
- 515 Blanton discusses the Mann Gulch Fire and his experience with and good opinion of "Wag" Dodge.
- 581 He talks about the 1994 Storm King Fire in Colorado and dangers to fire jumpers in general.
- 610 Blanton gives his opinion about female smokejumpers.
- 634 He compares the military to his training as a smokejumper.
- 658 He contrasts jumping out of the Trimotor to the TravelAir and generally his confidence in both plane and pilot.
- 723 Blanton discusses how his experience as a smokejumper effected his life.
- 775 **END OF SIDE TWO, TAPE TWO
END OF INTERVIEW**

NAMES AND PLACES INDEX

American Falls, Idaho
Bertram, "Bus"
Brooks, Monty
CineSound [corp.]
Chamberlain Basin (Idaho)
Clark Real Estate (McCall, Idaho)
Davidson, Roger "Toad"
Dodge, "Wag"
Egger, Bruce
Film Originals [Corp.]
Fogg, Bob
Foresters' Club (McCall)
French Creek Fire
Hells Canyon Fire
Lake Club (McCall)
Lake Street, McCall
Little Payette Lake
The Lost Hunter [Film]
Mann Gulch Fire (Montana)
McCall, Idaho
Missoula, Montana
Nampa, Idaho
Nielsen, Glen "Ace"
Paris, Bruce "Jelly Belly"
Payette Lake (Idaho)
Peterson, Richard "Paperlegs"
Pulaski (tool for fighting forest fires)
Rainey, Jess
Roth, Kenny
Salmon River
Scott, Lavon "Scotty"
Storm King Fire (Colorado)
Telephone Creek Fire [Film]
United States Forest Service
University of Idaho
Webb, Wayne
Wilcomb, Dick
Yacht Club [McCall, Idaho, bar]
Young Men and Fire [Book]